

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of May 21 - May 25, 2007**

1. **The Granicus System:** Please note that the Granicus system which supports video web-streaming and archiving on the City's website will be down for scheduled database maintenance starting this Saturday, May 26th at 8:00pm until Sunday, May 27th at 2:00am for a database upgrade. The vendor apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. *(City TV)*

2. **State Official Visits Takoma Park:** On Tuesday, Mr. Israel ("Izzy") Patoka, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and two staff members toured Takoma Park. Mr. Patoka wanted to see what Takoma Park is like and hear about the community's issues, needs and strengths. Mayor Porter, Councilmember Seamens and several staff and residents participated in the bus ride around the city. Both Mr. Patoka and City officials are hoping that the tour will facilitate a nice working relationship between Governor O'Malley's office and the City of Takoma Park. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

3. **County Executive and Others Tour the Takoma Metro:** On Wednesday, May 24, the City of Takoma Park hosted County Executive Ike Leggett and many County and State officials on a tour of the Takoma Metro site. The group gathered for a briefing about the possible impacts of inappropriate development on transit services at the site, then went for a walk-through across the property. Besides the County Executive and many members of his staff, participants in the event included: County Councilmembers Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich and an aide to George Leventhal; State Senator Jamie Raskin and State Delegates Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur; City Councilmembers Kathy Porter, Joy Austin-Lane, Colleen Clay, Terry Seamens and Bruce Williams; Charlie Scott, the new Government Relations Officer for Maryland from WMATA; two DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners; representatives of the Old Takoma Business Association; representatives of Historic Takoma, Inc.; Nelson\Nygaard Transportation Consultant David Fields; and several City staff. New Ward 4 DC Councilmember Muriel Bowser was not able to attend at the last minute, but a follow-up meeting with her is being pursued. The community is still waiting for WMATA staff to issue its report from the public hearing last October on EYA development plans for the property. The City took this opportunity to introduce the transit issues to our newly elected officials. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

4. **New Office Assistant:** The City Manager's Office welcomes Ms. Marisol Oquendo to City employment. Ms. Oquendo will serve as a receptionist and office assistant in the City Manager's Office and will assist in reception duties at the main desk in the Community Center. Ms. Oquendo is a native of Puerto Rico and a resident of Takoma Park. Please stop by and say "Hello!". *(Community & Government Liaison)*

5. **The Chambers Revisited:** The Auditorium Committee met with MTFA Architecture on Wednesday, May 23rd, and had a very productive brainstorming session regarding the possible renovation of the Council Chambers/Auditorium. The Committee expects to meet again with the architects on July 9 for a discussion of developed alternatives. *(City TV)*

6. **Fundraising Event:** The Friends of the Library Book Sale, held May 19, raised over \$2,000 for the Library. Special thanks to volunteers Merrill Leffler, Bob and Mary Ann

Annis, Dee and Mel Raff, Joshua Wright, Walter Mulbry and his daughters, Suzanne Morgan and her son, Kay Daniels, Judy Treible, Sam McCullin and his friends, Demi Temeris, Nadine Wettstein, Linda Carlson, Pat Hanrahan, Maurice Belanger, Emily Koechlin, Anne Parsons, Beth Williams, Rebekah Zanditon, Michele Morgan, Clair Garman and Louise Jung. Special thanks also to tireless Library staffers Janet Jendrzeczyk and Dave Burbank who prepare for this sale all year! *(Library)*

**7. Diversity Celebration:** Our special 'Dia Day' in celebration of diversity in Takoma Park was also held on May 19. Storyteller Arianna Ross and crafts with Karen MacPherson were featured throughout the morning. *(Library)*

**8. In Honor of Jamestown:** In observance of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, local author Karen Lange visited the Library on May 14th and discussed her new children's book, "1607: A New Look at Jamestown." *(Library)*

**9. Staff Changes:** Computer Center staffer Ivy Barkakati has left her position to seek adventure in San Francisco. Takoma Park resident and Librarian Jane Agora will begin staffing the computer rooms on week day evenings after Memorial Day. *(Library)*

**10. First Time Home Buyer Seminar Held (City-wide):** Eighteen prospective home buyers attended the First Time Home Buyer Seminar sponsored by the City of Takoma Park and the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) on May 19 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Guest speakers included Michelle Wright from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, who talked about the state's "More House 4 Less" Program, Michael Bendebba from CountryWide, a participant lender in the state's program and Martha Martinez, a local real estate agent. Contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222 for information about future programs. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**11. Meeting of Tenants/Tenant Associations Planned - June 20 (City-wide):** The next meeting of already formed tenants associations and tenants interested in forming associations will take place on Wednesday, June 20, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm at the Takoma Park Community Center. Topics to be discussed will include tenants' concerns about the condominium conversion process and possible changes in the rent stabilization law. Those interested in attending may contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. MARC- NAHRO Conference:** HCD Director Sara Daines spoke at the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Mid Atlantic Regional Conference on Thursday, May 24. Her presentation highlighted elements of the Council's efforts along the New Hampshire corridor. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study (Wards 2, 3, 6):** The City has initiated the traffic calming study for Sligo Creek - Long Branch, New Hampshire Avenue, and Pinecrest neighborhoods to develop neighborhood city street network-wide traffic calming solutions. A kick-off meeting was held with residents of the three neighborhoods last week and field data was collected this week. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Congress for New Urbanism (City-wide):** Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard attended the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) conference. The CNU focuses on all

aspects of development and redevelopment of traditional compact neighborhoods and urban districts that foster walking and social interaction and provide a sense of place and community. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**15. Code Enforcement Efforts along New Hampshire Avenue (Wards 2 and 3):**

Code Enforcement staff have been working with the owner of 6530 New Hampshire Avenue to address the City's concerns regarding the condition of the exterior of the building and adjoining grounds. The property, currently vacant and slated for renovation, has been condemned until such time as outstanding property maintenance code violations have been abated. The owner has made noticeable progress in cleaning up the site. Additional progress has been made in cleaning up the vacant parcel owned by WSSC at the corner of Sligo Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue. Until recently the site was used as a illegal dumping grounds. The construction debris has been removed, and signs prohibiting illegal dumping have been installed on the site. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**16. The Chief in Meetings:** On May 22, Chief Ricucci met with the members of the Westmoreland Avenue Community Organization to listen to their concerns relating to their community and crime trends. On May 23, the Chief coordinated security and safe street crossings at the Old Town Business Association event relating to building townhomes on the Takoma Metro Station Property. Also on this date, Capt. Coursey attended the Council of Governments monthly regional meeting. On May 24, the Chief, along with Det. Brodzinski, Montgomery County Gang Unit, gave a briefing to members of the Takoma Park Recreation Center relating to local gang activity and police related initiatives dealing with this problem. (*Police*)

**17. An Arrest Made:** On May 23, the Criminal Investigations Division executed an Arrest and Search and Seizure Warrant relating to the report of credit card fraud and theft which occurred at the Washington Adventist Hospital. Hospital staff member, Gloria Appiah of Lanham, Maryland, was arrested at her residence and charged in this incident. (*Police*)

**18. Joint Patrol Efforts:** On May 22, the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Initiative conducted their first Joint Bike Patrol, including seven police officers from Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Takoma Park Police Departments. Officers from the three jurisdictions conducted high-visibility bike patrols throughout the Takoma-Langley Crossroads to deter crime and reduce resident fear of crime. Officers distributed educational fliers to community members, made five citizen contacts and 15 suspicious person stops of individuals known for being involved in gang and drug activity. They also issued six verbal warnings to drivers not wearing their seatbelt and ten warnings for drinking in public. One citation for trespassing was also issued. (*Police*)

**19. New Staff:** On May 29, Ms. Catherine Plevy will join the Police Department staff as Chief Ricucci's Executive Assistant. Also on this date, Police Cadet Carla Magnaye will begin duties with the Administrative Services Division pending the start of her Police Academy Training. (*Police*)

**20. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2, 5 and 6):** Officers conducted at least 88 traffic stops this week, 82 of which ended in written citations. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Carroll and Flower Avenues. (*Police*)

